

REMARKS

Rejections

Claims 1-27 and 34-40

Claims 1-27 and 34-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Van der Schaar and Wu (both previously cited) in view of U.S. Patent 6,118,817 to Wang.

The Examiner admits that the combination of Van der Schaar and Wu does not disclose a quantized value for a coefficient that has an integer part and a fractional part as claimed by Applicant. To fill that gap, the Examiner asserts that Wang's quantization parameter Q 114 is equivalent to Applicant's quantized value for a coefficient as claimed. However, as well known in the art, a quantization parameter is not equivalent to a quantized value for a coefficient. Instead, a quantization parameter is an input into a quantizer that outputs coefficients having quantized values (see quantizer 112 in Figure 1 of Wang, col. 7, lines 24-39). Moreover, Wang teaches that the quantizer 112 rounds up/down the quantization parameter Q 114 to the nearest integer when generating the coefficients. Thus, the quantizer 112 does not even consider the fractional part of the quantization parameter Q 114 when generating the quantized values for the coefficients. (Wang: col. 8, lines 28-31). Indeed, Wang does not even suggest that the quantized values for coefficients output by quantizer 112 can have a fractional part.

Therefore, the combination cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1-27 and 34-40, and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Van der Schaar, Wu and Wang.

Claims 28-33 and 41-44

Claims 28-33 and 41-44 stand rejected over the combination of De Bonet and Wu (both previously cited).

Applicant respectfully points out that the Examiner made this exact rejection in the Office Action mailed October 17, 2005, and that the Examiner subsequently allowed claims 28-33 and 41-44 in the next Office Action mailed March 6, 2006. In the March 6 Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 28-33 and 41-44 were allowed in light of

Applicant's arguments presented in the response (mailed December 19, 2006) to the March 6 Office Action. Accordingly, claims 28-33 and 41-44 should still be allowed over the combination of De Bonnet and Wu because this is the same rejection that the Examiner previously admitted Applicant had overcome. However, for the sake of completeness, Applicant is resubmitting the arguments from Applicant's December 19 response that overcame the rejection of claims 28-33 and 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the combination of De Bonnet and Wu.

The Examiner asserts that De Bonet discloses decoding an enhancement layer bitstream into quantized fractional values as claimed by Applicant. However, De Bonet's enhancement layers are created from DCT or PWC coefficients. De Bonet does not even suggest using fractional values of a quantized coefficient to represent an enhancement layers. In fact, De Bonet does not disclose using the fractional value of a quantized coefficient for any purpose. Thus, De Bonet's decoder cannot be properly interpreted as decoding an enhancement layer into a quantized fractional value.

The Examiner is relying on Wu as disclosing decoding an enhancement layer into a fractional part of a quantization value for input data. However, Wu's enhancement layers represent residual values. Thus, Wu's decoding of the enhancement layers produces residues, not the fractional part of the quantization value for the input data as claimed.

Therefore, the combination of De Bonet and Wu cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 28-33 and 41-44, and Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-44 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-8300 x3476.

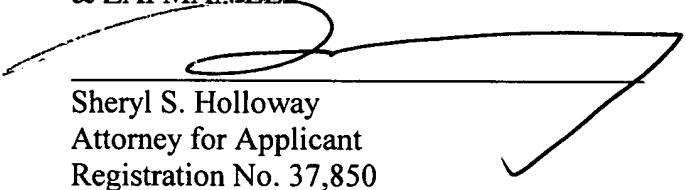
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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